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BOOK NOTICES.

L'Évolution de la Terre et de l'Homme. G. Lespagnol. Paris, Librairie Ch. Delagrave, 15, Rue Soufflot, 15. (Pr., 5 fr.)

A handbook of general geography, differing in its plan in various respects from that usually followed in similar American publications. It is natural that in the country of Vivien de St. Martin a book on geography should be considered incomplete without an account of the historical development of the science, and the emphasis given to the evolutionary side of the subject, as shown in the mere title, which is quite unique in the application to such a book, likewise requires it. The product of the author's effort does not fall short of his intentions; it will be difficult to find a better presentation, in the same limited space, of the evolution both of geographical discovery and geographical science than that given by him in the 107 pages of the first part of this course. Illustrated by reproductions of famous old maps, these chapters are far from being a dull treatise on things entirely of the past; they demonstrate very well how much the truly scientific conception of a subject gains by the knowledge of its gradual progress from the earliest beginnings to its present state, and richly repay the reader for the trouble taken in learning French. It goes without saying that in a country so famous for its cartographic achievements the explanation of the principles of scientific map-making is included in the discussion of scientific geography.

This discussion culminates in an attempt at a definition of geography which, however, is not fully satisfactory. The author says, indeed, a great deal about the object and purpose of geography, what it does, and what it used to be and no longer is, in much the same way as is done in all the newer books and periodicals. But for a new, brief, and clear definition of what this new geography really is, he leaves us no wiser than we were before, and in fact never gets beyond the start that it is one of the earth sciences.

His division of the special fields of geography, too, seems open to criticism. He distinguishes mathematical, physical, and "human" geography (geography of man), placing the geography of plants and animals as subdivisions with physical geography, and economical geography as part of the geography of man. In the arrangement of his book, however, the author does not adhere to this scheme, for the historical part is followed by (II) mathematical and physical geography including bio-geography), (III) geography of man, and (IV) economic geography. Under this plan the second part comprises about 350 pages, the third part about 80, and the fourth (a large percentage of which is more technological than strictly geographical) about 170. Even aside from this lack of proportion, which does not correspond to the comparative amount of presentable matter in each of the divisions of the science, the classification according to inorganic conditions and organic responses, as practised by the leading American and German geographers, seems to be more in harmony with the development of geographic research in the last decades.

In spite of these objections of a more theoretical nature, the book, both with regard to the choice and the handling of the subject-matter, ranks with the best productions of its kind in any country, and the concise and lucid presentation of the various topics shows at its best the eminently scientific character of the French language, giving an additional interest to the book for a reader who has already become familiar with its contents through the medium of another language. The illustrations, while of uneven merit, are almost always really illustrative, and the excellent résumés of the topics treated which accompany each chapter will prove most serviceable for the more mechanical part of the work. Finally, the carefully-selected bibliographical references on each subject, in which foreign names occur quite as often as French ones, cannot fail to give the student a touch of that broader scholarship which will not be acquired at all by the mere textbook-grinder, and only with difficulty by him whose references are limited by national boundaries. M. K. G.

Klimalehre der alten Griechen nach den Geographica Strabos. Von Dr. Hans Rid. Kaiserslautern, 1904. Small 8vo. Pp. 62.

It is significant that, with the rapid advance of modern scientific climatology, so much attention should of late have been paid to the views on climate held by the ancients. The recent works of Berger, Kiepert, Tozer, not to mention other authors, have done much to stimulate and interest in the history of ancient geography and related subjects. Among the geographers of the old days Strabo occupies a prominent place, and it is fitting that his contributions to climatology should be considered at some length in the volume before us. It may surprise those who have not some acquaintance with Strabo's writings to know that a small octavo publication of more than sixty pages could be devoted to the views held by Strabo on climate, at a time when the ideas of even the most advanced thinkers were, as a whole, extremely crude in regard to scientific matters. Dr. Rid has, however, in a sympathetic and in no uncertain way, set before us the contributions to climatology which we owe to the man who has been called "the greatest geographer of antiquity." We welcome this little volume to a place beside the latest of the present-day publications on climatology.

Strabo accepted the five-zone division probably suggested originally by Parmenides (see this BULLETIN, XXXVII, 1905, 387-388), but thought that the zone which was believed to be uninhabitable by reason of excessive heat was not as wide as the stretch from tropic to tropic, as had been supposed.

While recognizing the importance of insolation in controlling climate, Strabo appreciated the part played by temperature, by wind and by humidity. He stated the well-known fact that a movement of the air makes high temperatures easier to bear, while a calm makes low temperatures less bitter. An effect of sunshine upon the colour of the skin and in causing the hair to become crinkly Strabo thought possible only when the air is damp. The importance of monsoon winds in controlling climate, and of wind as a health-giving factor, were appreciated. One of Strabo's greatest contributions was his recognition of the control of surface features over climate, whereby *solar* climate is modified into *physical* climate, and his explicit statements regarding the importance of altitude in causing a decrease of temperature. His predecessors had in some cases suggested such a relation, but he himself first clearly discussed it. Latitude was thus shown not to be the sole cause of differences of temperature. The snow-line was spoken of, as was the difference in altitude above sea-level at which snow falls and remains on the north and south sides of mountains. Mountains were seen to affect rainfall and to act as climate barriers. The influence of local climates upon the distribution of many plants was recognized.

Among the most interesting of Strabo's views were those concerning the in-